

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Independent claims 40 and 41 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment, dependent claims 63-78 have been added. Support for the new dependent claims appears, for example, in the original claims (see, for example, claims 2, 15, 35-36, 43, 45, 47, and 49) and in specification page 27, lines 4-6. Claims 1-39 and 42-62 had been previously canceled.

In numbered paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 40-41 are rejected, based on a new ground of rejection, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,595,187 (Bober) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,015 (Albright et al). In numbered paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 40-41 are rejected based on a new ground of rejection, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,469 (Farrell et al) in view of the Albright patent.

These rejections are respectfully traversed, as the newly cited patents relied upon by the Examiner, considered individually on the various combinations suggested by the Examiner, fail to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 40 and 41. For example, none of the patents relied upon by the Examiner, considered individually or in the combinations relied upon by the Examiner, teach or suggest punching a hole, or cutting out a notch, in a sheet on a sheet-by-sheet basis, and collecting and registering the sheets, each of which has a fold, on a sheet-by-sheet basis.

Such features are broadly encompassed by independent claims 40 and 41. For example, claim 40 specifically recites punching a hole in the sheets, sheet-by-

sheet; collecting the sheets in a stack on the workpiece, sheet-by-sheet, said sheets having a fold therein. Claim 40 also recites registering the sheets on the workpiece, sheet-by-sheet, with the fold in each sheet.

The Bober patent is directed to a saddle stapler accessory. Figure 1 of this patent illustrates a printing machine 10 which includes a saddle stitcher 70. Figure 2 illustrates that the saddle stitcher 70 includes a creasing roll 74. The roll 74 is shown in Figure 5 to include a ridge 71 for placing a crease in a sheet which passes between the rolls 74 and 72. Sheets which pass through the roll 72 and 74 include a weakened area 76 as shown in Figure 6. The weakened area 76 facilitates folding of the sheets onto a roof-shaped compiler tray 79 of Figures 2 and 3. See column 3, lines 55-57. Fold forming baffles 90 and 91 have a surface adjacent the compiler trays 79 so that sheets leaving the creasing rolls are guided into conforming in shape to that of the compiler tray. The sheets are registered on the compiler tray 79 against first registration gates 80 and 81.

The Bober patent does not teach or suggest punching a hole in sheets or cutting out a notch in selected sheets, as is acknowledged by the Examiner. In addition, this patent does not teach or suggest punching a hole or cutting out a notch on a sheet-by-sheet basis as presently claimed.

The Examiner refers to the Albright patent at column 2, lines 32-48 as disclosing individual hole punching of printed sheets. Figure 1 of this patent illustrates an exemplary hole punching system 20 which includes separate sheet paths 23 and 24. A shared, common punch driver system 30 is used in both the paths 23, 24. A transverse sheet punch assembly 31 includes three sheet punches 32a, 32b and 33c on one side for the first sheet path 23, and three other sheet

punches 33a, 33b and 33c on the opposite side for the other sheet path 24. After sheets are punched, they are ejected into merging paths to form a common output path 28 of Figure 1, as described in column 8, lines 42-46. The Albright patent does not teach or suggest any collecting of sheets, sheet-by-sheet, wherein said sheets each have a fold therein. The Albright patent does not teach or suggest any registering of sheets on a workpiece, sheet-by-sheet, with the fold in each sheet.

There would have been no motivation or suggestion to have combined the Bober and Albright patents in the manner suggested by the Examiner to arrive at the presently claimed invention. The Bober patent provides no teaching or suggestion of any hole punching or notch cutting capability, and therefore provides no teaching or suggestion as to how such a feature could have been incorporated in the system disclosed. The Albright patent is not directed to registering folded sheets on a sheet-by-sheet basis, and there is no teaching or suggestion by the Albright patent as to how such a feature could have been incorporated with the system of Bober.

Applicant's independent claims 40 and 41 are directed to combinations of features which include a hole punching, or notch cutting, capability on a sheet-by-sheet basis, in combination with collecting of the sheets in a stack on a workpiece, sheet-by-sheet, said sheets each having a fold therein, and registering the sheets on the workpiece, sheet-by-sheet, with the fold in each sheet. Such combinations are neither taught nor suggested by these patents.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention, as encompassed by independent claims 40 and 41, provide significant advantages. For example, an ability to provide a low-cost, low power method and compact apparatus for manufacturing a booklet, with for example, a desktop laser or ink-jet printer is

achieved. Exemplary embodiments provide multiple operations on a sheet-by-sheet basis. Neither of the Bober and Albright patents teach or suggest multiple operations as presently claimed being performed on a sheet-by-sheet basis. As such, claims 40 and 41 are allowable.

Independent claims 40 and 41 are also allowable over the Farrell and Albright patents. The Farrell patent fails to overcome the deficiencies already discussed. For example, this patent is directed to a printing system having a finishing apparatus. The Examiner refers to column 11, line 67 as disclosing a signature booklet maker (SBM) 300 which can be outfitted with a hole punching device. Figure 16 of this patent illustrates a system which includes a saddle stitcher 310, a folder 312 and a trimmer 314. However, the folding is provided **after** a stitching operation, such that folding is performed on a set of bound sheets as described at column 11, lines 22-26. As such, this patent teaches away from the presently claimed invention, such that it would not have been obvious to have combined the features of the Farrell patent with those of the Albright patent in the manner suggested by the Examiner

Claims 40 and 41 are therefore allowable over the Farrell and Albright patents.

The newly added claims recite additional advantageous features which are neither taught nor suggested by the documents recently relied upon by the Examiner. For example, none of the documents, considered individually or in the combinations relied upon by the Examiner, teach or suggest multiple folds, or folding sheets with a fold blade, as recited, for example, in claims 70 and 78.


In light of the foregoing, all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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